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A Brief Account
of
Woodbury Creek Dam



By

FRANK H. STEWART

President of the Gloucester County Historical Society

Woodbury, N. J.

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Presented by
Frank Stewart
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The ancient Indian name of Woodberry Creek, as it is spelled in our earliest records, meant the place of black burrs (Peskozackassing). It would not require much imagination to infer that wood berries and black burrs were one and the same thing. It has also been suggested that Woodbury was named after Woodbury, Connecticut, but the commonly accepted tradition is that an early settler, Henry Wood, senior of Bury, County of Lancaster, England, who with his sons bought land of Bylling, April 3, 1683, and who settled at the mouth of Woodbury Creek soon afterwards, is responsible for the name now perpetuated by the City of Woodbury, and the famous creek over which there has been so much contention.

Samuel Mickle, of Woodbury, who kept a wonderful diary of the years 1792 to 1829, recorded on December 26, 1820, that he "read after candle light ye manuscript papers respecting ye wars about Woodbury Dam in 1754." Unfortunately, these manuscript papers are now missing, but they, without a doubt, belonged to his uncle, John Ladd, Jr., whose papers he then had.

In the September 1754 sealing in dockets of the Gloucester County Courts, we find the entry of a suit of James Whitall and Joseph Low, versus John Ladd, Fisher Hopper, Habakuk Ward, Joseph Jaggard, Savil Wilson, Thomas Clark, Cornelius Clark, Stephen Clark, James Ward, Joseph Ward, and Moses Ward, Jr. Judging from the facts now before me, I think that this suit had something to do with the so-called Ward Dam that stopped off the waters at the

head of Woodbury Creek, and which interfered somewhat with the plans of Whitall and Low, and others, to dam Woodbury Creek at its mouth. It was very unusual for one Quaker to sue another, and nothing but a defiance of the rules of Friends' Meeting can now be seen in this litigation record.

The bitterness of the contest is reflected in the words, "wars about Woodbury Dam." The following pages show that it was not only a source of conflict then, but continued so for seventy-five years and more.

The dam across the mouth of Woodbury Creek was built about four years prior to the twenty-fourth of April, 1760, when Ann Whitall wrote in her diary: "Hab. Ward and Mos. Ward came here to the dam there has been so much quarreling about, and brought two axes, two mattocks, and two spades to cut the dam down, and to work they went, and Sparks brought the Sheriff, and there was miserable work, but they tied them and took them to Joseph Harrison, and from there to jail." (See Notes on Old Gloucester Co.)

Ann Whitall, afterwards known as the Heroine of Red Bank, lived on the farm where the battle of Red Bank was fought, in a red brick house still standing a few hundred feet north of the bank that dammed Woodbury Creek. Across this dam the Whitalls drove their live stock the day of the battle. After the defeat of the Hessians, Count Donop was taken across the dam to Joseph Low's, and then died in a brick house long since torn down, but the old trees that shaded it still survive, and the prop-

erty is still owned by a descendant named Low.

Benjamin Whitall, the son of Ann, was a captain of artillery. Her brother, John Cooper, was a member of the Provincial Congress of New Jersey, and a delegate to the Continental Congress. His term with the other New Jersey delegates expired a few days before the first of July, 1776, and their successors signed the Declaration of Independence on behalf of the people of New Jersey. He undoubtedly took part in the discussion on the resolution of Richard Henry Lee.

Joseph Low was a member of a patriotic committee, and was disowned by Friends Meeting because of his activities, the same as John Cooper. When I first became interested in Gloucester County history, I often wondered why the British and American troops, both alike, stole from and persecuted the family of James and Ann Whitall. The English knew, of course, about John Cooper and Benjamin Whitall. The Americans knew they were Quakers, and opposed to force. They were truly between the two millstones.

The following advertisement appeared in Franklin's newspaper, the "Pennsylvania Gazette," of June 29, 1758:

Notice is hereby given, That the Petitioners of Woodbury Creek, in the County of Gloucester and Province of West New Jersey, have leave to bring in the Bill they pray for the first Monday of the next sitting of the House of Assembly of said Province at Burlington, for clearing out of said creek above the Dam for keeping the freshets from overflowing the meadows above said Dam, and for maintaining the said dam and waterworks. If any persons have any objections to make, they are desired to offer them. Dated June 5, 1758.

April 24, 1760, an advertisement was printed in the same newspaper by William and Ruth Wood to the effect that on May 7th following, a plantation of the late Henry Woods, situated in the township of Deptford, Gloucester County, N. J., would be offered for sale. The plantation was located about five

miles from Gloucester, and one and one-half miles from Woodbury, and contained a pretty large new brick house, and one hundred acres of the best meadow grounds our country affords, being made dry by stopping a creek whereon it lies.

When the dam was first erected at the mouth of the creek, it was done without the consent of some of the meadow-holders at the very head of the creek. Four years after the bank was erected, and much exertion made to have it taken away by the owners at the head of the creek, both sides appeared before the Legislature. A compromise was made, and all of those at the head of the creek opposed to the dam agreed to accept 100 pounds (one hundred pounds), to be divided among them, and gave up their privileges and opposition to the dam.

The remaining meadow-holders who made the dam owned the principal part of the meadow on the creek, to wit: James Whitall and Joseph Low, who lived directly at the mouth of the creek, together with two or three families of the Woods. The remaining owners agreed and purchased the right to dam the creek, and paid the 100 pounds. On the north side, the meadow was owned by Whitall, Wood and Andrews up to Habakuk Ward, who was one of the men who sold his right for 20 pounds. On the south side, the meadow was owned by the Lows and Woods, parties to the project. They made the dam and supported it.

THE FIRST LEGISLATION

The first legislation we find about Woodbury Creek Dam was an act passed in the first year of the reign of King George III (December 5, 1760), entitled "An act to continue the Dam across Woodbury Creek in the County of Gloucester."

"Section 1. Whereas James Whitall, William Wood, John Sparks and others owning and possessing meadows on Woodbury Creek in the County of Gloucester, esteeming it for their interest, did erect a dam across the said creek from the land of Benjamin Wait

to the land of the said James Whitall, whereby the navigation of the said creek became and still remains obstructed, as alleged to the great damage of Moses Ward, Habbakuk Ward, James Ward, and other persons which has occasioned much controversy."

This act, which was very voluminous, gives the idea that the dam was built without process of law, and that it worked damage to owners of meadow land further up the creek where the Wards had erected a dam years before. The Legislative act specified a committee of John Wetherill, Andrew Smyth, John Hart, Joseph Skeleton, Azariah Hunt, William Lowrie, and John Anderson, of Freehold, or any four of them, to assess benefits and damages in case those interested in the contention did not select seven arbitrators to agree on a settlement.

Section 2 of the act required the settlement or assessment to be filed in the office of the Clerk of the Supreme Court at Burlington.

Section 6 provided that Whitall, Wood and Sparks should remove the dam if they were opposed to the award of the arbitrators.

Section 9 said it was the true design of the act to put a final end to the many disputes that had and still existed.

Section 10 gave the right for the owners of meadow land between Woodbury Creek dam and the Wards dam to meet yearly the first Monday in September at the dwelling house of Joseph Tatham, and appoint managers and an assessor to repair, maintain and uphold Woodbury Creek Dam.

This act designed to cover every little detail that might arise after its passage, as usual with such attempts, did not fully answer the purpose, because a few years later, May 10, 1768, another act was passed to remedy the defects in the first act. The second act provided for a concern henceforth to be called the Lower Meadows Co., owning meadows and swamps below Moses Ward's dam on Woodbury Creek, so far as the tide used to flow. This Company was to meet yearly in March and elect two

overseers, two managers, and a clerk, and an assessor to regulate the meadows for the common good of the owners. James Whitall and Joseph Low were appointed first managers; James Cooper and John Wood overseers; John Estaugh Hopkins assessor, and James Whitall, Clerk, who was to provide himself with a book wherein entries should be made and minutes kept of all meetings of the Company. Mr. John G. Whitall told me that he at one time had these books. It is hoped they will be found and deposited with the Gloucester County Historical Society. The second act repealed the first one, and gave permission to erect flood gates at or near Ward's dam, and in Tredway's branch at or where the public road from Woodbury to the Delaware River crossed it. The flood gates were to be so made as to prevent the tide waters from flowing up the creek and branch, but not so as to prevent a free passage for the backwater through them. It is the idea of John G. Whitall that the flood gates here and at the mouth of Woodbury Creek swung on hinges, or their equivalent.

The Meadows above Ward's dam were evidently known as the Upper Meadow Co., and it is probable they obtained a right to dam the creek before the year 1760, because their rights were specifically protected as follows: "Provided always that nothing herein contained shall divest the owners and possessors of the meadows on the head of said creek of any power or authority they had or enjoyed before the passing of this act," etc.

Samuel Mickle wrote in his diary under date of August 6, 1813, that he "on invitation of James Saunders, went ye P. M. with him and his son, Isaac, fishing at Woodbury Dam. I caught but three small oldwives."

TIDE WATER LEVELS

On January 26, 1828, Amos Campbell, James Sterling, Joseph Scott and Ephraim Miller certified that in the month of February, 1824, the tide water

from the river Delaware was let into Woodbury Creek in consequence of a breach or breaches in the river bank—that at high tide, the water rose at the town of Woodbury so as to overflow the top of the arch of the old stone bridge across said creek a few rods below the main road or street. That so long as the tide continued to ebb and flow in the said creek, the arch as aforesaid was overflowed at high tide, and that being citizens of Woodbury, residing near the creek, they had daily observation of the fact.

On the same day, two of them, viz.: Amos Campbell and James Sterling, both architects of Woodbury, certified that they had measured the height of the arch of the old stone bridge across Woodbury Creek a few rods below the then main road, and that from the surface of the water, as it then was, to the top of the arch, the height was three feet eleven inches, and that the present depth of water at the said bridge was three feet, so that whenever the water was high enough to overflow the said arch, the depth of the water in the creek would be six feet eleven inches.

While the contest was on concerning the Woodbury Creek dam, it is of interest to mention that a scheme was on foot to dam the Delaware River above Trenton, which was objected to by the shad fishermen.

February 4, 1828, William Strickland, of Philadelphia, wrote the following letter to Messrs. James Matlock, Glover Smallwood, Foster and Armstrong, Committee on the Navigation of Woodbury Creek:

“At your request, I have examined the ground along the margin of Woodbury Creek from the Dam at its mouth, up to the stone bridge at the town of Woodbury.

I find from a course of levels taken, a copy of which accompanies this report, that by raising an embankment on each side of the creek, the average height of which may not be more than 4 feet 9 inches above the surface of the meadows, the high water of the river Delaware may be made to flow at the town of Woodbury to the depth of $5\frac{1}{2}$ feet,

and that it will be quite easy and practicable by clearing out the bed of the creek to produce a good navigation to the town for sloops and small craft of every description.”

The act to restore navigation of Woodbury Creek under that title was passed by the Legislature at Trenton, February 12, 1829. On May 13th, of that year, and for one year afterward, and possibly longer, James Matlock, Jacob Glover and Ephraim Miller, Commissioners, ran an advertisement in the “Village Herald,” a weekly newspaper of Woodbury, to the effect that in accordance with the legislative act to restore navigation from Woodbury to the Delaware River, that at 10 o'clock A. M. on April 1, 1831, they would proceed to cut, remove and clear away the dam at or near the mouth of said creek, and let in the tide to make it navigable.

The dam was cut, and it was not long before there was a clamor to have the dam replaced, which, if anything, was more vociferous than that to have it destroyed.

EFFORTS TO REPLACE THE DAM

A short time ago, Miss Elizabeth Matlack presented me with some legal papers that belonged to her grandfather, James Matlock, that shed some light on what actually happened after the dam was cut, and the meadows covered with tide water as they are to-day.

Accompanying the papers is a map showing every house near Woodbury Creek, west of Broad street. On the north side, in the vicinity of the present home of Dr. Underwood, was M Callas; then going toward the river were Wm. R. Tatum's, Andrews', and Wilkins'. On the dam road north side of the creek, opposite the tavern and ferry, was a building unnamed.

On the south side of the creek, going to the river, are marked the Court House, George Mickle's, William Cooper's, Joseph Stokes', Thomas Clark's; across the road from it was James Mickle's, and below him at the corner formed by the intersection of the

Woodbury Dam and the Pivot Bridge, or Crown Point Road, was a house marked Osborne's; across the road towards the creek was Amos Campbell's; below it a house lately owned by Jeremiah Wood; further down Low's house. On the road leading from the north side of the dam are the houses marked Tacy Whitall, Charles Whitall, James Jessup, and Snowden around the hook in the Red Bank road, and west of the Crown Point road was the house of Ann Roe. Directly north of the Wilkins' house The various owners of the meadow lands are enumerated, but would now add nothing of interest. The ferry house located on the river side of the dam and south side of the creek, and the unnamed building opposite have long since disappeared. Probably some reader of this article may be able to tell us how long ago.

On the map of the creek, forty-five chains from the west side of the road, about in front of the contemplated post-office building, another "Old Dam" is marked, but no reference is made to it in the papers—probably Ward's Dam. A proposed dam is marked on the map about four or five chains up the creek to the eastward of the Camden-Crown Point Road, or what is now known as Paulsboro Road. The proposed dam was about one half way in a straight line between the former dam at the mouth of the creek and the present Broad street.

PETITION TO LEGISLATURE

To the Honorable, the Legislative Council and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey.

The Subscribers, residents of the County of Gloucester, and State aforesaid, respectfully sheweth:

That some of your petitioners with others for the purpose of improving the meadows on Woodbury Creek, and to restore the navigation thereof, applied to the Legislature of the State aforesaid in the year 1829 for a law appointing commissioners to remove the Dam and Water-works at the mouth of said creek; that in pursuance of the law then passed, the said Dam and Water-works were re-

moved in the month of May, 1831. But most unfortunately for your petitioners, and the surrounding neighborhood, five hundred acres of good meadow ground became inundated with water, and rendered entirely useless to the owners, and as many as four hundred acres more lessened in value about one half. Nearly three years have elapsed since the removing of the said Dam, and the continual overflow of the tide over the meadows.

Your petitioners are well assured that the greater part of the meadows bounding upon said creek are forever lost to the owners unless a dam and water-works be again established by law, at or near the place where the old law placed them.

Your petitioners are further convinced that in consequence of the current of water having left the channel of the creek, and spread itself over the surface of the meadow, the creek will continue to fill up and the navigation become useless.

Your petitioners would further beg leave to state that the aforesaid creek having remained banked off for more than seventy years had become filled with mud, and the meadow settled so low that it is impossible to restore them to their former value without resorting to the mode adopted by our forefathers.

Your petitioners therefore sincerely pray that your Honorable Bodies will be pleased to pass a law authorizing them to erect a Dam and water-works at or near the mouth of the creek aforesaid, and your petitioners will ever pray.

Dated at Deptford Township, November 20, 1833.

Joseph Stokes	Paul Bowers
Benj. C. Tatem	Wm. D. Richards
Samuel R. Saunders	Joel D. Lawrance
Zaccheus Duncan	Peter Snyder
Thomas Schmo	Michael Aires
Benjamin Wilkins	Joshua Mullen
Joseph Doron	Daniel Lamb
Joseph Dilkes	James W. Lamb
Joseph Shuster	John W. Lamb
Charles Knight	David Rose, Jr.
I. Cheeseman, Jr.	James Matlack
Joseph Curtis	Aaron M. Wilkins
Sam Webster	Job W. Wilkins
Henry Osborn	Aaron Paul
Thomas Willson	William Cooper
Benjamin Clond	Thos. Clark
Charles Roe	James J. Lord
Jos. Lodge, Jr.	Thomas Glover
Joseph D. Pedrick	Geo. M. Paul
David B. Leslie	George Ward
David Carney	Nathan Cozens, Jr.

Mahlon Skill
 Wm. Carson
 Isaac Cheeseman
 Isaac Doughten
 Sam'l B. Lippincott
 Wm. S. Doughten
 Josiah Stokes
 Thos. Knight
 Wm. E. Kay
 Henry Bradshaw
 Benj. B. Shuster
 Chas. F. Wilkins
 Levin Deniten
 Sam'l Kemble
 S. Sailor
 Wm. Porch
 John Estell
 John Godfrey
 Chas. French, Jr.
 William Haines
 Artur Brown
 William C. Sparks
 Joseph Willson
 Henry Jackson
 James Cooper
 William E. Cooper
 Richard M. Cooper
 Charles Kaighn
 Ebenezer Toole
 Wm. R. Kaighn
 George P. Bender
 John Thorne
 Benjamin Allen
 Ephraim Bee
 Nathaniel Chew
 Joseph Shernir
 Joseph Johnson
 Joel Wood
 James Graham
 Marmaduke Beckley
 Jos. T. Takereen
 Jonathan Packer
 Thomas S. Dyos
 Jesse C. Cox
 Levi C. Campbell
 Cornelius Boys
 Handel Nicholson
 Sam'l W. Estlock
 Joseph W. Paul
 Thomas Thomson
 Champneys Rambo
 Dan'l C. Cozens
 Isaac Thomson, Jr.
 Eli Thomson
 George Bowers
 Wm. Fenimore
 Elias England
 Asher Borden
 Jeremiah Adams
 Jonathan Heritage
 Richard Moffett, Jr.
 Joseph Henry
 James Jaggard
 Peter S. Kerns
 Malachi H. Lodge
 C. V. Clark
 William Mickel
 Thomas Ford
 Isaac H. Wood
 Jeh. Wood
 John S. Lord
 Isaac Derickson
 Charles Lock
 Elijah Bowen

Philip E. M—
 Richard Scull
 Joseph J. West
 Peter Harkew
 Joel Parker
 Garrot Clark
 David Wood
 James Jessup, Jr.
 Wm. Madora
 Isaac Warner
 John Hews
 David Whitall
 Mark Clements
 Peter Sigars
 Joskua Lord
 Theophilus Hillman
 John Kerns
 Bowman Sailer
 Charles Brown
 Sam'l R. Chardon
 William Murphy
 John R. Tonkin
 Wm. Thorne
 John B. Hilyard
 Charles Hopkins
 John Brown
 Joseph Kaighn
 I. C. Dilkes
 Jones Keen
 Benj. Whitall
 Samuel Kirby
 John L. Cooper
 Amos Clark
 Charles Reeves
 Edmund Weatherby
 John B. Jessup
 Charles Fisher
 Benjamin Perkins
 Josiah R. Andrews
 Stille Chew
 Thomas Russell
 Rembin Haines
 John W. Cloud
 Charles R. Cloud
 Robert Howey
 Joseph Skill
 James Saunders, Jr.
 Benj. W. Mickle
 T. C. Humphreys
 Richard Clark
 Joshua E. Webster
 W. C. Cifer
 George Loudenslager
 Sam K. Chardon
 John Lord
 Benh. D. Andrews
 Benjamin Lord
 James H. Lord
 Isaac Lord
 Wesley Miller
 Joseph J. Currie
 John M. Richards
 William Caffrey
 Joshua Cozens
 Wm. Stevenson
 Geo. T. Atkinson
 Nathan Folwell
 Thomas Iredell
 Jonathan Colson
 Samuel Weatherby
 Samuel Gaunt
 Amasa Garwood
 P. Ferriman Leddon
 Jesse Rice

Enoch Aggings
 Abel Knight
 Martin W. Rulon
 Charles Starr
 John Peters
 James Horner
 John S. Leonard
 Jacob Seeds
 Jacob Sigars
 Jos. C. Pancoast
 John Shivers
 Jonathan Colson, Jr.
 Thomas Hardikin
 Benjamin Colson
 Clalkley Moore
 Charles Wilkins

D. C. Ogden
 Abel Peterson
 Jacob Howey
 Samuel Ogden
 Samuel C. Allen
 John B. Snode
 Jos. Fullerton, Jr.
 Felix Smith
 Enoch Allen
 Joshua Engle
 Josiah Lippincott
 Joseph Chatham
 Israel Pancoast
 John Atkinson
 Samuel Atkinson

Apparently nothing resulted from the attempt to again dam Woodbury Creek at its mouth. I consider it quite probable that the petition was presented to the Legislature, but it is evident that objection was made, because the following year another petition was circulated and generously signed, asking for a dam about half way up the creek between the river and Woodbury. The map described probably accompanied this petition.

ANOTHER PETITION

To the Honorable, the Legislative Council and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey. The Petitioners of the Inhabitants of the County of Gloucester respectfully sheweth:

That near four years hath elapsed since the dam and water works at the mouth of Woodbury Creek was removed for the restoring the navigation of the said creek, and for the improvement of the meadow thereon, but in consequence of such removal five hundred acres of meadow are destroyed, and the navigation of the upper part of the creek of but little advantage compared with the entire loss of the meadow.

Your Petitioners therefor pray a law may be passed authorizing commissioners to erect a dam and water works on said creek where the Crown Point Road crosses the same. Your Petitioners will ever pray.

12th, 12mo., 1834.

David B. Cooper
 Paul Cooper
 James Matlack
 Josiah R. Andrews
 Isaac Cheesman, Jr.
 John B. Jessup
 Charles Stokes
 Sam'l Webster
 Thos. Clark
 Samuel Ogden

David Cooper
 Samuel Kemble
 Joseph Ogden
 Joseph D. Pedrick
 Geo. M. Paul
 Nathan Cozens, Jr.
 Jesse Smith
 Nicholas Pidgeon
 Thomas Glover
 John Redfield

William Scott	Charles Whitall
James Jessup, Jr.	William R. Tatum
Thomas Russell	James Roe
George Allen	Josiah Lippincott
Elijah Chew	Felix Smith
John G. Shivers	William Elkins
Benjamin Madara	Reuben M. Stiles
Thomas Keough	James Gibson
Michael Morgan	Joseph Ashbrook
Benj. Wilkins	David Jaggard
Thomas Ford	Henry Rulon
Isaac Hinchman	Sam'l C. Allen
W. E. Cooper	Joseph A. Chatham
Gabriel Davis	Joseph Chatham
Joseph Stokes	Sam'l A. Coles
James Mickle	Enoch Aggings
Wm. Cooper	Richard Matlack
Benh. D. Andrews	Joseph Doron
James Dilks	Joseph C. Pancoast
James H. Lord	Jesse Rice
Amos Campbell	Stacy French
Jno. R. Sickler	George Ward
C. V. Clark	Charles Brown
John Mickle	Ameriah Pierce
Thos. Schumo	Thomas Doron
Joseph Biddle	Amaza Garwood
David Whitall	Martin W. Rulon
Thomas Medara	Sam'l H. Weatherby
Aaron M. Wilkins	William Ward
Firman Layman	Thomas Sailer
William Heppard, Jr.	Pennimeno Leddre
James Hinchman	Jacob G. Turner
B. P. Lippincott	Nathan T. Stratton
Benjamin Perkins	William Holmes
Zebulon Pierson	Edward Wallace
Richard Fetters	Charles Wilkins
Charles Reeves	John Moore
Philip Emmel	Joel Packer
Richard Scull	Jonathan Colson
Arthur Brown	Robert Davis
William Haines	Peter Stetser
Abraham Lippincott	Henry Burt
Bowman Sailer	Job W. Wilkins
Francis Carson	Charles Stetser
Thos. L. Sharp	Joseph L. Stephens
Abel Knight	Tobias Casperson
Jacob Wilkins	Sam'l Whoto
Joshua E. Campbell	Isaac Hews
John B. Hilyard	Henry Osborn
Joseph M. Cooper	Henry Osborn, Jr.
Chas. F. Wilkins	William Wilkins
Sam M. Stephens	Aron Wallace
Robert Cooper	Richard Parker
John Bud	Joseph Willson
Peter Curtis	James Cox

On November 25, 1834, according to George E. Pierson, an advertisement was placed in the "Woodbury Constitution" signed by George Mickle, Charles Knight, James Mickle, Josiah R. Andrews, James Matlack, Thomas Clark, William Cooper, Joseph Stokes and Isaac Cheeseman to the effect that a petition would be made to the Legislature on January 14, 1835, for a law appointing commissioners to erect a dam and water works on Woodbury Creek between the pivot bridge on the Crown Point Road, and the mouth

of Matthews' branch. The proposed location corresponds with the spot on the map referred to before, but the Legislature did not look on the proposition with favor, and no action was taken. A few years ago Woodbury Creek was deepened and straightened, and its waters ebb and flow twice in every twenty-four hours as they did when Hog Island, on the opposite side of the Delaware, was called Quistonck.

Accompanying the petition is a statement to the New Jersey Legislature signed by the owners of the meadows lying on Woodbury Creek who were citizens of Gloucester County. They were Wm. Cooper, James Matlack, Charles Knight, Thomas Clark, Joseph Stokes, James Mickle, Aaron M. Wilkins, Zachaeus Duncan, Benjamin Cloud, Josiah R. Andrews, Charles Whitall, Henry Osborn, Isaac Cheesman, Jr., Joseph Shuster, James Jessup, and Benjamin Lord. The statement itemized the different estimated losses such as crops, taxes, embankment expenses, causeway losses that amounted to four thousand dollars annually.

Another list gives the names of thirty-one owners of meadow land on Woodbury Creek, and its branches, aggregating four hundred and fourteen and one-half acres overflowed by the tide.

From a memorandum, we find that Samuel Webster was County Collector.

John Mickle, boat builder.
Thomas Schumo, watchmaker.
John R. Sickler, physician
Joseph D. Pedrick, wheelwright and farmer.

Geo. M. Paul, storekeeper and farmer.
Jesse Smith, mechanic and weaver.
Nathan Cozens, tailor.
Nicholas Pidgeon, shoemaker.
Thomas Glover, blacksmith.
Thomas Madara, carpenter and farmer.

James Roe, storekeeper.
Sam'l Kemble, constable.
Ephraim Miller, Justice of the Peace.
Jesse Smith, innkeeper and farmer.
Joseph Fithian, physician.

Daniel J. Packer, blacksmith and farmer.

John C. Smallwood, County Clerk.

There were apparently two Jesse Smith's living in Woodbury in 1834.

From a recapitulation of the buildings in Woodbury in 1834, we find there were one hundred and three dwellings, thirteen stores and twenty-three offices; printing and work shops, all figured as separate buildings, but probably in most cases on the same lots as the dwellings. The owners of fifty-four of the buildings favored the "stopping" of the creek. The owners of thirty-two buildings were opposed. The owners of twenty-two buildings were neutral or indifferent. Thirty-one buildings were owned by widows and non-residents. Those opposed to the dam were: Ephraim Miller, Daniel J. Packer, Jesse Smith, Josiah S. Franklin, John Simmerman, Simon Sparks, Samuel Cole, Joseph Saunders, Jacob Glover, John Hannah, Joseph Fithian and Joseph Franklin. Those who were indifferent were Joseph Curtis, Michael C. Fisher, Samuel Ladd, John Moore White, Andrew Eacritt, William Fletcher, Samuel Kemble, Samuel Hudson, Martha Saunders, Clement Daniels, Aaron Cade, and John Fletcher.

From the list of property owners, we learn that James Matlack owned more property than any other person in Woodbury, namely six houses, one store, and one shop. Nancy Roe owned four houses, and one store. Joseph Fithian four houses and one shop. Jacob Glover, Thomas Madara, and a person named Dickerson owned three buildings each, and Samuel Webster owned a school house.

In an article read before the Gloucester County Historical Society at Red Bank by John G. Whitall, he said that in 1829 the Legislature passed an act for the removal of the dam, giving the

property owners along the creek two years to erect banks to prevent the tide from overflowing their meadows. The dam was removed in 1831, causing great bitterness on the part of the farmers injured, who for years afterwards refused to trade with Woodbury stores. His own father, Charles G. Whitall, discontinued the professional services of Dr. Fithian, of Woodbury. One of the reasons put forth for the destruction of the dam was that it caused malarial chills and fevers.

In the winter of 1849-50, a high storm tide washed away so much of the lower side of the dam bank that the road leading to Leven Densten's, who kept the tavern, became impassable. He put in a claim for damages because the dam road was not kept up, which was allowed by the township, and the road vacated. The tavern, being below high water mark, was flooded, and soon ruined.

Woodbury dam in its prime was a shipping point for Woodbury twice a week: on Tuesdays and Fridays, packets sailed to Philadelphia. Mr. Whitall remembers an old woman, Mercy Fowler, who grew acres of lavender which she sold in Philadelphia, also other things, on commission for her Thorofare neighbors. John G. Whitall says that Thorofare and vicinity was formerly known as Flyatam town.

January 26, 1828, Samuel Mickle wrote in his diary: "Cousin Josiah Tatum ye P. M. came with a petition or remonstrance against opening ye navigation of Woodbury Creek. Also John Reeve a few days ago presented to me a memorial and petition for opening said navigation, but I signed neither of them. N. B.—In or about ye year 1754, a dam was erected and navigation stopped about which this neighborhood was in a great ferment on the said occasion."

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